

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Nobuhiko Sukenaga on July 23, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

At page 25, line 9 of the specification, inserted -- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING -- .

Claims 112-116 have been canceled.

Claim 42, line 3, after "of" inserted -- at least -- .

Claim 51 (amended): The [A] process according to claim 42, wherein said polymer material is shaped by extrusion onto a supporting unit in the extrusion station, and wherein the supporting unit is in the form of a pressure armour, said polymer layer being an intermediate layer of the flexible unbonded offshore pipe and said polymer material being extruded onto the pressure armour.

Claim 52 (amended): The [A] process according to claim 42, wherein said polymer material is shaped by extrusion onto a supporting unit in the extrusion station, and wherein the

supporting unit is in the form of a tensile armour, said polymer material being extruded onto the tensile armour.

Claim 54, line 1, replaced "A" with - - The - - .

Claim 95 (amended): The [A] process according to claim 42, wherein said polymer material is shaped by extrusion onto a supporting unit in the extrusion station, and wherein the supporting unit is an armour layer of the flexible unbonded offshore pipe, said armour layer comprising a secondary layer in the form of a tape applied onto the armour, the polymer composition being extruded onto said tape.

Claim 96 (amended): The [A] process according to claim 42, wherein said polymer material is shaped by extrusion onto a supporting unit in the extrusion station, and wherein the supporting unit is an armour layer of the flexible unbonded offshore pipe, said armour layer comprising a secondary layer in the form of a gas permeation barrier applied onto the armour, the polymer composition being extruded onto said [tape] gas permeation barrier.

Claim 97, line 1, replaced "A" with - - The - - .

Claim 98, line 1, replaced "A" with - - The - - .

Claim 109, line 1, replaced "A" with - - The - - .

Claims 42-50, 53, 55-70, 76, 77, 79-94, 100-105, 107, 110, 111 and 117 are allowable.
Claims 51, 52, 54, 95-99, 108 and 109, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, contain all the limitations of an allowable claim. Pursuant to the

procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(a), **the restriction requirement between the species of Group I, as set forth in the Office action mailed on May 4, 2007, is hereby withdrawn** and claims 51, 52, 54, 95-99, 108 and 109 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Claims 42-70, 76, 77, 79-105, 107-111 and 117 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for the production of a flexible unbonded offshore pipe comprising at least one polymer layer with a thickness of at least about 4 mm comprising extruding a polymer comprising polyethylene and peroxide and activating crosslinking of the polymer by application of infrared radiation comprising wavelengths corresponding to the absorption peaks for the polymer material in combination with the other features instantly claimed. (e.g. when the polymer is polyethylene the infrared radiation comprises wavelengths in the ranges of 3.3-3.6 μm and/or 6.7-6.9 μm , see page 14, lines 15-27 of the instant disclosure).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY WOLLSCHLAGER whose telephone number is (571)272-8937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:45 - 4:15, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on 571-272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeff Wollschlager/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

July 28, 2010